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To Whom It May Concern:

I am very concerned that the FCC is proposing to expand LPFM service in such a way that would allow new LPFM stations to take priority over current FM translator service. This disturbs me because the FCC's proposed rule changes, if enacted, could possibly force many FM translators off the air. The resulting displacement of this very valuable public service medium would have a widespread negative impact. Many of the national and regional broadcasters utilizing FM translators serve the public interest with quality, family oriented programming. These broadcasters are reaching hundreds of thousands of people around the country who would otherwise be unable to access this excellent programming. Those negatively impacted by the displacement of FM translators would be more than just the broadcasters who utilize them: they being deprived of their means of reaching the public; but also the public: it being deprived of the wonderful programming coming from those same broadcasters; and society too: it being destabilized due to the void of quality programming.

My community has its share of broadcasters serving it via the FM translator service. My favorite radio station, Air1, happens to be broadcast in our area in this same manner via FM translator WLXP 88.1 FM. The Air1 radio network, a public interest, non-profit, listener supported national radio station, utilizes FM translators extensively throughout the country, broadcasting in at least 24 states, playing popular contemporary Christian hit music with no commercials. I listen to their excellent family friendly programming every chance I get, which is quite frequently, but often at odd hours due to my work schedule. Thankfully they are on the air twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week, allowing me to enjoy listening any time at my convenience and without any annoying commercials. Air1's positive programming appeals to a wide audience, especially today's youth. The wholesome music and message they put out has greatly enriched my life and the lives of many other listeners, not just in my region, but all over the country.

Unfortunately, many advocates of LPFM incorrectly believe that there is little value in this type of quality programming being produced by broadcasters (like Air1) who depend on the vital FM translator service. I hope my comments help to clarify this misconception. If quality broadcasters using FM translators (especially public interest ones, such as Air 1) were displaced by LPFM broadcasters providing different types of programming, then the huge programming void created by such a displacement could not be filled even if the LPFM broadcasters were to provide the same type of programming (very unlikely) that was being displaced in the first place. Regardless, LPFM inherently could not possibly fill the void due to its severely limited range.

In this day and age with all the negative societal influences, especially on our youth, we need more positive programming to help strengthen our families and communities. But if FM translators do get displaced because priority is erroneously given to LPFM service, then the resulting void in positive programming will serve to weaken our families and communities, creating more chaos for our society. In closing, the FM translator service is a crucial component of our country's public information system. The FCC has a duty to the public to maintain and preserve it. Any new rules implemented should do just that.

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